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Recent News

[Governors Martin O'Malley and Jack Markell request a partnership with President Obama to develop off shore wind in the mid-Atlantic](#)[During Maryland's tax-free weekend, Feb. 19-21, the sales and use tax will not apply to certain Energy Star products or solar water heaters](#)

Upcoming Event

Capitol for a Day in
Baltimore City with Governor
Martin O'Malley

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Nationally recognized car wash goes solar with no up front costs through support from MEA



The addition of solar paneling to the iconic [College Park Car Wash](#) pushes this local small business into the future. It also means noticeable monthly savings for Dave Dugoff, owner of the self-serve wash.

Through a partnership with budding finance company [Skyline Innovations](#) and a \$4,469 grant from the Maryland Energy Administration, Dugoff installed the solar paneling with no initial costs. The car wash uses 1,500 to 2,200 gallons of hot water every day, and now 30 percent of the electricity it uses to heat that water comes from solar energy.

The implementation of solar paneling on the College Park Car Wash generates approximately \$370 to \$400 of savings every month. After a portion is used to pay off the original installation costs, Dugoff still manages to save \$55 to \$60 each month.

Skyline Innovations was founded to provide solar thermal technology to small businesses. "[College Park Car Wash] was our first sale after the company was founded," says Kate Heidinger, project manager at Skyline Innovations.

"We actually approached him" says Heidinger, who had heard through a mutual

Do You Have An Energy Success Story You'd like to Share?

If you or your company have benefited from MEA programs or incentives, you could be the next feature of our newsletter.

Please submit your story for consideration to meainfo@energy.state.md.us or call our office for more details: 410-260-7655.

contact that Dugoff was considering solar paneling.

The day of installation was filled with excitement and anticipation. Heidinger recalls, "The first day the panels went up, everyone in the company went out" to support Dugoff with a cookout. Heidinger jokes about a Prince George's County police officer who stopped to ask why they were grilling in the car wash parking lot. The team answered, "We're watching our solar system go up!"

Skyline Innovations, despite their early arrival to the solar stage, has an in-depth knowledge of the many incentives available both at the Federal and State level. Heidinger confirmed that their understanding of MEA's Mid-Sized Solar Grant Program played a central role in the company's ability to create monthly savings for Dugoff.

Through the success of MEA's Mid-Sized Solar Grant program, the 12 approved projects for solar photovoltaic systems around the State are estimated to add 244 kW of clean renewable electricity to Maryland's grid, and save nearly 70 MWh annually.

[The Maryland Energy Administration](#) offers a wide variety of resources, strategies and information to help you reduce your energy consumption, increase your understanding of alternative energy, and ultimately help [EmPower](#) fellow Marylanders to take control of our energy future. For more detailed information, please bookmark MEA's website: <http://www.energy.maryland.gov>